



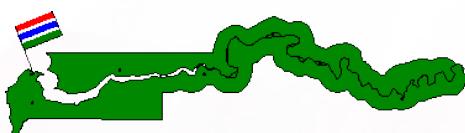
The Gambia



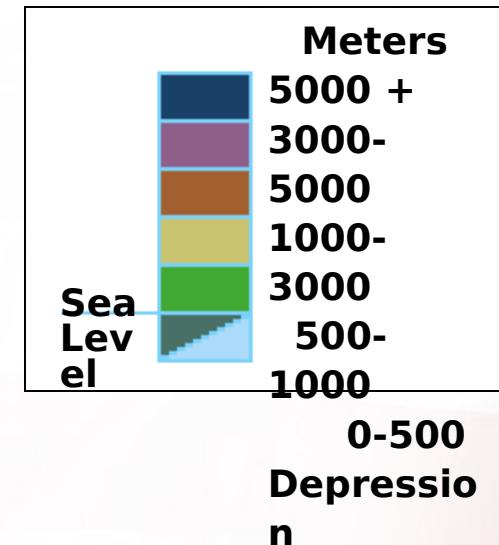
Smallest African Country

The Gambia : Environmental Issues

- Topography
- Climate



Climate tropical; hot, rainy season (June to November); cooler, dry season (November to May)



Terrain: flood plain of the Gambia river flanked by some low hills

lowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 m
highest point: unnamed location 53 m

The Gambia : Environmental Issues

- Air :
 - Low risk
 - Localized air contamination may occur near specific industrial facilities or urban areas.
 - Solid wastes in townships and villages are burned at open-air sites
- Soil:
 - Localized to specific areas surrounding industrial facilities and waste disposal sites.
 - Significant exposure to contaminants in soil is unlikely in the absence of wind-blown dust, active digging, or migration of contaminants from soil into ground water.
 - Usually presents a low risk to human health.

The Gambia: Environmental Issues

- Food:
 - Food may be contaminated with industrial particulates, chemicals from soil, pesticides, fertilizers, and fecal pathogens
- Water:
 - Water contaminated with raw sewage.
 - Pesticides (organochlorines, organophosphates, and carbamates).

The Gambia: Environmental Issues

- Greatest short-term environmental health risks
 - Water contaminated with raw sewage
 - Runoff containing fecal pathogens

The Gambia: Diseases of Operational Importance

- **Highest risk** country
- Diseases of greatest risk
 - Food and Waterborne Diseases: Bacterial diarrhea, Hepatitis A, Protozoal diarrhea and Typhoid/paratyphoid fever
 - Vector-borne Diseases: Dengue fever, Malaria, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, Yellow fever.
 - Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Hepatitis B.
 - Respiratory Diseases: Meningococcal meningitis
 - Water-contact Diseases: Schistosomiasis

The Gambia: Diseases of Operational Importance

- Diseases of potential risk
 - Food and waterborne Diseases: Brucellosis, Cholera, Hepatitis E
 - Vector-borne Diseases: Boutonneuse fever (Mediterranean spotted fever), Chikungunya, Leishmaniasis, Rift Valley fever, Sindbis (Ockelbo) virus, Murine typhus (flea-borne) and West Nile fever.
 - Sexually Transmitted Diseases: HIV/AIDS, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia.
 - Water-contact Diseases: Leptospirosis,
 - Soil Contact Diseases: Lassa Fever
 - Respiratory Diseases: Tuberculosis
 - Animal-contact: Anthrax, Q-Fever and Rabies